Ban on polythene bags

† 949. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chhattisgarh Government has sent any proposal to the Central Government, to ban the use of polythene bags;

(b) if so, the main issues raised therein;

(c) the policy of Government in this regard; and

(d) the details of action being taken by Government with regard to the use of polythene?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) So far, no proposal has been received by the Central Govt, from the Chhattisgarh Government to ban the use of polythene bags.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has notified the Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. These Rules prohibit the use of carry bags and containers made of recycled plastics for storing, carrying, dispensing or packaging of foodstuff.

The rules also prescribe a minimum thickness of 20 microns for both virgin and recycled carry bags. In addition to the above, the Bureau of Indian Standards have also laid down a number of standards on use of polythene.

Reconsideration of order on BT Cotton

950. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat State Biotechnology Coordination Committee has represented to the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) to reconsider their order on BT. Cotton;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) the details of the revised order of GEAC?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Gujarat State Biotechnology Coordination Committee (SBCC) requested the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) to reconsider its order of 18.10.01, in view of the practical difficulties in implementing the order.

(c) The GEAC in its meeting held on 31.10.2001, considered the request of SBCC and directed the SBCC to:

- procure the cotton bolls of Navbharat 151 crop from the farmers at the appropriate support price;
- separate the lint and seed;
- destroy the seed and store the lint in safe custody till further orders from GEAC;
- destruction of crop residue by uprooting and burning and sanitation of fields.

Death of Peacocks

† 951. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Peacocks have been found dead in various parts of the country during the last one year;

(b) if so, the number of such Peacocks alongwith the locations where such Peacocks have been found and whether Government have conducted any enquiry with regard to their death; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Cases of death of peafowls that have come to the notice of the Government are given in the enclosed statement. The postmortem reports indicate that the

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